



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:



January 11, 2007

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Region 3 has designed a new endangered species website to help federal agencies and their non-federal representatives complete section 7 consultations under the Endangered Species Act. The website is intended to be very useful for both federal agencies with section 7 obligations and non-federal entities.

Section 7 Consultation Main Page -

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/index.html>

This main Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation webpage has been designed to provide a broad range of information, and includes links to the following specific pages:

- Section 7(a)(2) Consultation – An explanation of the consultation process
- Section 7(a)(2) Technical Assistance
- Guidelines for Preparing a Biological Assessment
- Section 7(a)(2) Guidance for Specific Species
- Section 7 Consultation Handbook

Section 7(a)(2) Technical Assistance page -

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/s7process/index.htm>

This page is designed to guide you through the consultation process step by step. By following the instructions, agencies can determine their action area, whether listed species may be found within the action area, and if the project may affect listed species.

Federal agencies and non-federal representatives will find several products on the site that can streamline the consultation process. When determining if listed species may be located within a project area, agencies can download county specific species lists for all of the states in Region 3. Species specific best management practices will also eventually be available. Example letters and templates are available to assist with documenting “no effect” determinations and preparing requests for concurrence on “not likely to adversely affect” determinations.

The website’s (step-by-step process) will include a specific section for HUD, pipeline, and telecommunications projects, which is expected to be completed by January. This part of the site includes specific activities which appropriately fit the criteria for a “no effect” determination and includes a printable form for documenting the determination for your administrative record.

Please contact Tameka Dandridge of this office at 517/351-8315 with any questions or comments.